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RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHZP #0772 1311905  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 111905Z MAY 07  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0356  
INFO RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS PANAMA 000772

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNHRC](#) [PM](#)  
SUBJECT: PANAMA: NO POSITION ON BELARUS UNHRC CANDIDACY,  
WILL CONSIDER BOSNIA

REF: A. (A) STATE 58036

[1](#)B. (B) STATE 63345

Panama can be swayed to oppose Belarus' candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and to support Bosnia as an alternative. Panamanian MFA DG for International Organizations and Conferences Delia Villamonte said that Panama did not have a position with respect to Belarus' candidacy when POLCOUNS delivered reftel A demarche on May [11](#). Villamonte was receptive to U.S. arguments that Belarus' on poor record on human rights made Belarus an unfit candidate. Post believes that if Bosnia were put forward as an alternative to Belarus that Panama would support Bosnia over Belarus given Bosnia's steadily improving human rights record. Post recommends engaging Panama's mission to the UN in New York to lock down Panama's vote. Panama's UN Mission at a minimum will have the lead on determining Panama's voting position and very likely has the authority to determine which candidates to support for the UNHRC.  
EATON